

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1-30 were pending in this application. In this Amendment, claims 1 and 5-7 and 21-23 have been amended. The subject matter of Claim 4 has been incorporated into Claim 1 and claim 4 has been canceled. Thus, claims 1-3 and 5-30 remain pending upon entry of this Amendment.

In the Office Action: claims 5-7 and 21-23 were objected to because of minor informalities; claims 1-3 and 5-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No 5,574,756 to Jeong ("Jeong") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,538,475 to Johansen et al. ("Johansen"); claims 13-31 were allowed; and claims 4 and 7-12 were objected to as being dependent upon a base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Below, Applicants' response to the claim rejections and objections is organized under topical headings.

Objection to claims 5-7 and 21-23

As suggested by the Examiner, claims 5-7 and 21-23 have been amended to correctly recite the word "fourth" instead of "forth."

Objection to claims 4 and 7-12

The Examiner is thanked for the indication of the allowable subject matter, specifically that subject matter recited in original claims 4 and 7-12. As detailed below, the subject matter

recited in claim 4 has been included in amended claim 1, which is thereby believed to be in condition for allowance. However, claims 7-12, which each depend from claim 1, have not been rewritten in independent form, because they should also be allowable due to their dependence from a now allowable claim.

Rejection of claims 1-3 and 5-6

The rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn because amended claim 1 recites at least one feature that is neither taught nor suggested by the cited art. As noted above, claim 1 has been amended to include all the subject matter recited in original claims 1 and 4. The Examiner has indicated that claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim (claim 1) and any intervening claims (claim 3). Applicants have therefore included the limitations recited in original claim 4 into amended claim 1, which Applicants respectfully submit is now in allowable form.

Although amended claim 1 does not include the subject matter recited in intervening claim 3, Applicants submit that the novel feature recited in original claim 4 alone renders claim 1 patentable over Jeong in view of Johansen. This feature, wherein a first group of sampling clock pulses includes a first clock signal and said second group of sampling clock pulses includes a second clock signal, said first clock signal and said second clock signal are 90 degrees out of phase with each other, and both rising edges and falling edges of said first clock signal and said second clock signal are used as said sampling edges, is nowhere taught or suggested by the cited art. This feature presents a novel aspect of the invention whether or not the first and second group of pulses have the same frequency equal to half a data rate frequency, as recited in claim 3. Accordingly, Applicants have elected not to include the subject matter of claim 3 in amended

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claim 1. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn. At least for the same reasons as apply to claim 1, the rejection of dependent claims 2-3 and 5-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) also should be withdrawn.

Applicants' additional amendment to claim 5

Applicants have also amended claim 5 to depend directly from amended claim 1, rather than through intervening claim 3. Accordingly, claim 5 has been additionally amended for consistency with claim 1. However, by this Amendment, no subject matter that was not previously under consideration has been introduced.


In view of the foregoing all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

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